



P O Box 131 Center Point, IA., 52213-0131 319-849-1844  
Tom F. Neenan, Executive Director

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December 23, 2008

Surface Transportation Board  
Anne K. Quinlan, Acting Secretary  
395 East, S W. Room 1149  
Washington, D. C., 20024  
Via FAX

Reference: Docket AB 33 (Sub No. 175X)

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

It has been brought to my attention that the above referenced matter, that is more specifically the time for granting of an extension of time in which to negotiate with the Union Pacific Railroad for the acquisition of their right-of-way in Hamilton County, Iowa, between Ellsworth and Jewell, for the purpose of establishing a trail within this corridor, has now expired and no request for extension of time has been filed.

The Director of the Hamilton County Conservation Board, which we have represented in this matter, indicated to us last Summer that they had asked the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to represent their interests in this matter as they were physically closer and were in their office in Des Moines periodically. We concurred that this might be the best route for them to take and since that time took no further action as their representative in this matter.

We were shocked to be notified by the Union Pacific Railroad that no request has been made for an extension of time beyond October 24, 2008. We have not lost our interest in seeing that this corridor becomes a trail and are willing to continue representing the interest of the Hamilton County Conservation Board in this matter and in their behalf we now request that the Council and the Board be given the usual extension of time, or to at least until February 24, 2009, to attempt to finalize these negotiations with the Railroad. It is our understanding that the

Affiliates: American Discovery Trail Society-American Hiking Society-Rails/Trails Conservancy-American Trails

Union Pacific is willing to agree to this extension of time and I believe has notified you of this fact. I will provide a copy of this letter to them and will forward ten copies to you via overnight mail.

We intend to immediately contact the Hamilton County Conservation Board to confirm their wishes as to whether we should continue to represent their interests in the matter beyond this application, or whether they have asked the INHF to represent their interest as they previously indicated.

I did spend several hours trying to make this request via email today but was rebuffed each time I tried to enter your program, even after filling out the forms and providing user I D and password. Presumably this has something to do with the hour or perhaps the approaching holiday. I apologize for forwarding this via FAX at such a late hour. I will follow up this formal request with a call to your office to confirm its receipt. Thank you so much for your kind consideration in this matter!

Sincerely,



Tom F. Neenan

Copy to Gabe Meyer, Union Pacific Railroad, Omaha  
Ten copies to STB, Washington, D. C.